

Employment, Skills and Social Inclusion National Sub-Committee

Report to the Growth Programme Board

March 2018

Who are the Sub Committee?



- Chaired by Steve Spendlove from the MA
- 25 members including representatives from:
Higher Education,
Employer networks, Local Government; Education & Skills Funding Agency; DWP; Third Sector; Youth Employment.

Committee Remit

- **Provide expert advice** on Employment, Skills, Social Inclusion & EU regulations - across the ESI Fund Programmes
- **Review and analyse policy** issues and operational circumstances – influence to align to maximise impact
 - **Exploiting synergies** with wider national policies and funding
 - **Critical Friend** for the European Structural and Investment Funds – Balancing objective of OPs with localist nature – developing coherence
- **Make recommendations** to improve impact of CFO and CLLD Provision
- **HOW**
 - **Intelligence gathering and communication**
 - **Highlight risks**
 - **Identify good practice**



Performance Monitoring

Identifying and raising issues, for example:

- impacts of delays in programme starting/being formally launched
- match funding



**POLICY ADVICE
TO HELP PEOPLE
EARN, LEARN AND
PROGRESS**



**MAXIMISING
THE IMPACT
OF ESIF FUNDS FOR
EMPLOYMENT,
SKILLS AND
INCLUSION**

Policy Development

- **Provides advices** on all aspects of Employment, Skills and Social Inclusion across the ESF and ERDF funds, historically focus has been on ESF, which addresses fund interventions to support people
 - Working through small task groups between meetings to bring expertise to bear, as well as in meetings
- **Reviews implementation** on the ground and raises issues , risks of unintended consequences from stakeholders and programme providers and advocates for participants.
- **Analysis** of the impact of employment, skills and inclusion policy to maximise impact of the funds and the availability of match and scans future policy to identify risks and maximise opportunities

Maximising Impact

The committee advises on approaches to take to ensure maximum impact:



- Use of AEB & Apprenticeship levy as match
- Delays in issuing of ITTs
- Impact of Brexit
- Value for money
- CFO progress

Other Issues and Examples

- **Other Issues covered have included:-**
 - Devolution
 - Shared Prosperity Fund
 - Social Inclusion review and participant groups
 - Maintaining momentum and reducing delay
 - Use of TA
- **Examples.**
 - Pushed for clarification round IP2.2 Added Value requirements i.e. direct beneficiaries for IP2.2 are businesses but DWP added value identified that individuals accessing training (not provided in IP2.2) should also be included.
 - Challenged the sole use of unit costs being used to calculate added value.
 - Clarification of terminology where DWP appear to use 'contracted' and 'actual delivery' interchangeably



Risks

- A culture of risk aversion which tends to “Gold Plate” audit requirements. This makes delivery for those furthest from the labour market too difficult to evidence and undermines inclusive provision, which is the strategic aim of ESIF
- That ‘shared prosperity fund’ is not shaped by learned understanding of need and experience of programme delivery
- Delays in implementation undermine our ability to maximise the full value of funds and realise potential, we need to retain momentum
- Continued uncertainty ...
 - Reduces appetite of applicants to put forward proposals thus reducing the level and quality of delivery
 - Due to Brexit makes planning for the trading environment therefore and developing the workforce and skills difficult



Communications

- Wide representation - links the Managing Authority to a diversity of stakeholders, across thematic and spatial groups.
 - LEPs, VCSE, Education, Employers, Social Partners, Local Government, Expert Equality Groups
- Third sector across England can both be informed about and contribute to the policy influencing role of the committee.
- Huge bank of experience and knowledge
- Bringing in intelligence from “on the ground” –
 - Implementation, risks, match funding, policy alignment, audit, delivery issues.

Sharing Good Practice

Examples of how committee members have brought/shared good practice from their organisations/sectors

- **Supporting Older Participants** – Third Sector National Learning Alliance
- **Engaging Employers** - Employer's Network for Equality and Inclusion
- **Gender Equality** – The Women's Organisation
- **Social Inclusion** – Big Lottery



Thank You



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